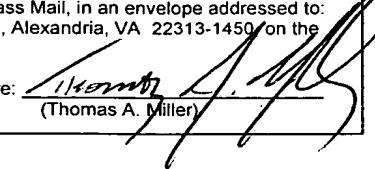




TPW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: January 14, 2005

Signature: 
(Thomas A. Miller)

Docket No.: 29985/02-332
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Daniel M Lafontaine et al.

Application No.: 10/616,622

Filed: July 10, 2003

Art Unit: 3731

For: SYSTEM FOR CLOSING AN OPENING IN A
BODY CAVITY

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

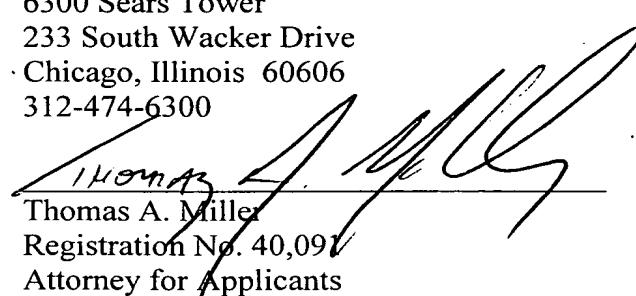
Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 14, 2005